

BABYLON – THEN and NOW, part 10 quotes

1) The Third Angel's Message ... continued

What does the SDA church teach today about the true church of God being founded only on Christ and His truth, with the marks of the true church listed in Revelation 12:17 and 14:12; which "keep the commandments of God," and have "faith of Jesus"?

"The four classical marks of the Biblical church apply to Seventh-day Adventists: its holiness (in Jesus Christ), its catholicity (universality), its apostolicity (in harmony with the witness of the apostles/founders), its unity (one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism)" Adventist Review, October 1, 1992, p 27 (parenthesis in original).

This means that the SDA church proves its authenticity for being a true biblical church of God today, not by keeping the commandments, but by being holy, catholic or universal, apostolic, and one or united. Why is this significant? Because for hundreds of years the Catholic Church has claimed the exact same four marks as to why they are the true biblical church of God!

"There are Four Marks by which the church of Christ [Catholic] may be recognized. It must be One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic." Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, p 26, by Peter Geiermann (see also The Catholic Encyclopedia, p 99).

Truly, the SDA church images Roman Catholicism, and must also be included as being part of the Image of the Beast--or those apostate Protestant churches which image Roman Catholicism! In fact, the SDA church images Rome more closely than any other Protestant church in all of America!

Judge William T. Hart of the U.S. District Court, North District of Illinois, East Division, handed down a decision in favor of the General Conference of SDA's who was being sued by Derrick Proctor. Judge Hart stated:

"Church documents that prescribe the church's structure and governance confirm that all parts of the church are parts of a single entity. **Next to the Roman Catholic church, the Adventist church is the most centralized of all the major Christian denominations in this country.**" Derrick Proctor vs General Conference of SDA, case #81 C 4938, Findings of Fact, Section B, Church Objectives and Structures, p 22, October 29, 1986.

2) What does the SDA church teach today about following the "testimony of Jesus Christ" or "the spirit of prophecy" of Revelation 19:10 — being the writings of Ellen G. White, and therefore these writings have their continuing purpose, and are still to be followed today?

"...[the 9 Volumes of the Testimonies For the Church, which was made up of individual Testimonies] was a particular message to that individual that did not apply to everybody....So you can't take the Testimonies and make that a general application to everybody....**[So when] God spoke to her...that didn't apply to everybody.**" Kenneth Cox, WTGL TV interview, February 8, 1993.

"Her [Ellen G. White] **writings had their purposes...**" Angry Saints, p 108, by George R. Knight, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1989.

3) What does the SDA church teach today about the truths of the Righteousness of Christ? Such as His righteousness enabling us to be accepted back to God, receiving His grace which helps us to render obedience to God through faith?

"Many wrongly believe that their standing before God depends on their good or bad deeds." 27 Fundamental Doctrines, p 121.

"...[we need to] **give up on the idea that we can ever produce genuine obedience.**" Faith That Works, p 168.

"Obedience is always and only by faith...**never of our own efforts.**" Obedience of Faith, p 88, by Morris L. Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983.

4) What does the SDA church believe about the truth that we must overcome all sin and perfect holiness in the fear of God?

"...**He [God] does not expect us to fight sin.**" Salvation by Faith and Your Will, p 71, by Morris L. Venden, Southern Publishing Association, 1978.

"It is crucifying to admit that we cannot overcome sin, that we cannot obey, that we cannot produce righteousness, but that **Jesus must do all of this for us.**" Faith That Works, p 172.

"We shall **never reach sinless perfection in this life.**" Review, May 19, 1966, p 4.

5) What does the SDA church believe about the need to work in harmony with God in overcoming sin and living righteously?

"...God has not called leaders to provide a perfect, unblemished reflection of Christ..." Church Ministries Worker: A Journal for Church Leaders, January-March, 1987, p 4, published by the Pacific Press Publishing Association.

"God has already overcome the power of sin. We do not need to strive again and again to overcome sin. This is because Jesus has already done this, once for all on the cross....Is it presumptuous of us to try to overcome sin 'again' in our lives?...Sin is much too big and powerful for us to delude ourselves like that....No matter what, we are going to keep on sinning simply because we are sinners....Having accepting that, though, **we do not need to get all worked up about our failure to overcome sin.**" Cornerstone Connections Youth Quarterly, 2nd Quarter, 1994, p 60-62, 65.

6) What does the SDA church believe about our necessity to continually strive to overcome sin as we advance upward on the straight and narrow pathway to heaven?

"Works-righteousness is the religion of the carnal heart, and always has been....It is **not God's will that we make our way up a steep hill to heaven**, bloody and bowed, unsure of whether or not we're going to make it." Adventist Review, October 8, 1992, p 9. (Another statement along this same line: Adventist Review, March 2, 1989, p 10).

7) What does the SDA church believe about the law of God still being binding today, and Christ's keeping of it does not free us from having to also keep it?

"...[the wrong view is that] we must do something to free ourselves from sin. It is the [false] spirit that teaches we cannot trust all to Christ, and **let Him work out our own righteousness for us.**" Angry Saints, p 47.

"...**we have been discharged from the law**...[the Spirit] frees the believer from the law...and fulfills the righteous requirement of the law in him." Adventist Review, November 17, 1983, p 7.

"**The law has been carried out.** Carried out upon Him [Jesus], so I am free." Adventist Review, April 6, 1989, p 13. (Other statements along this same line: Adventist Review, January 2, 1986, p 13, Adventist Review, April 18, 1985, p 17).

8) What does the SDA church teach today about sanctification or perfection not being instantaneous, but being progressive throughout the lifetime?

"As to the believer's past, **at the moment of justification the believer is also sanctified...**" 27 Fundamental Doctrines, p 123

"...perfection [in Christ]...is relative, or vicarious, in-as-much as it depends on a right relationship to Christ. **It is attained instantly** by an intelligent act of the will accepting Christ's imputed and imparted righteousness, and is retained throughout life unless a person repudiates his relationship to Christ...He is accounted perfect in heaven, not because he never makes mistakes, but because, despite his mistakes, God credits him with Christ's perfect righteousness. Unconditional dedication to the goal, and uncompromising pursuit of it, are God's **only** requirements." Review, June 10, 1965, p 12.

9) What does the SDA church teach today about no one being able to say or feel that they are saved before entering heaven?

"Do you wonder if you are saved?...Do you believe that Jesus is your Saviour? Have you confessed your sins? Have you given yourself over to Him? Then, regardless of how you feel--whether or not you feel 'right'--you are saved....**Only saved people...are conscious of how short they fall of God's ideal....**[Anyone] who loves Jesus knows and can know that he or she is saved." Signs of the Times, June, 1989, p 12-14.

10) What does the SDA church teach today about the Robe of Christ's righteousness not covering any unrighteousness or even one unconfessed sin?

"His (Christ's) perfect character is portrayed as a wedding garment or a robe of righteousness that He gives to cover the filthy rags of human attempts to achieve righteousness." 27 Fundamental Doctrines, p 114.

According to the SDA church of today, you can keep your filthy rags and also be clothed with Christ's robe of righteousness! Or in other words, you can continue to sin and still be righteous.

"...it is possible for the growing Christian to discover that he has a **known sin going on** in his life and at the same time a continuing relationship with Jesus." To Know God, p 93, by Morris L. Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983.

"...in the imperfect people around you...you have been able to perceive the robe of righteousness with which He has clothed them." Adventist Review, July 5, 1984, p 3.

"...[the everlasting gospel] involves the substitution of Christ's perfect obedience in place of our transgressions, and the substitution of **His own spotless righteousness in place of our sins and pollution.**

"That is the inmost heart of the Everlasting Gospel. That is **the sole basis for holiness** in the sight of a holy God....It is His righteousness, not our achievement. That is the Gospel in glorious operation. That is the First, Second, and Third Angel's Message in 'verity.'" Movement of Destiny, p 634 (1971 edition).

But is it true that Christ's pure and spotless robe of righteousness will be placed over our sinful garments of filthy rags, thus allowing us to continue to sin and yet be considered righteous?

"Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, **Take away the filthy garments from him.** And unto him he said, Behold, **I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.** And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments....And the angel of the Lord protested unto Joshua, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; **If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge,** then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and **I will give thee places to walk (in heaven) among these that stand by.**" Zechariah 3:3-7.

Christ's precious and pure robe of righteousness will not be placed upon anyone to cover their filthy garments of sin. But this precious robe will only be placed upon us after all our sins are confessed and forsaken by us and are then forgiven and removed from us by God. And after being clothed with this pure garment of righteousness, God declares to us that only if we will walk in His ways and keep His charge or commandments, that we then will have the right to enter heaven and walk among all the other sinless heavenly beings! So do not become deceived by the SDA church!

11) What does the SDA church teach today about no one finding salvation while continuing in sin?

"'But,' you say, 'I'm not "without blemish,"...Yes, the blemishes and the blame **are still there (as they are for the vast billions of humans everywhere)**; but nonetheless Christ's sacrifice in our behalf gives Him the astounding right to 'present' us before the Father and His universe as 'holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.'" Signs of the Times, May, 1986, p 27, by Robert Wieland, (parenthesis in original).

"To have the Spirit of Jesus is one of God's conditions for salvation. **Moral perfection is not....Christians still keep on sinning after they find salvation in Jesus.**" Signs of the Times, November, 1986, p 19.
(Another statement along this same line: Adventist Review, October 27, 1983, p 7).

It is clear that the SDA church has failed to accept these precious truths contained in the message of Christ and His righteousness. But what happened to the Jews when they failed to accept Christ and His righteousness?

"As the Jews departed from God, and failed to make the righteousness of Christ their own by faith, **the Sabbath lost its significance to them.**" Desire of Ages, p 283.